

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2002

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Bettyann Chamberlin, Al Crommett, Tim Swiss and Secretary John Concordia were present. Director Sharon Yager, CMAA representative Vicki Zwerdling and Phyllis Pearson, Friends of the SCC, Inc. representative were also present.

Chairman's Comments:

After the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board, Paul presented information from Representative Karyn Polito regarding a petition she has made to the House of Representatives for tax relief for seniors. This petition requests a "freeze" on real estate taxes for certain persons at age 70 and seems to be a timely follow up to Jim McCrohon's suggestions to the board last month.

Paul mentioned a request from SHINE for use of the center as a satellite office wherein we would accommodate a file and "voice-mail" services for SHINE coordinators. After some discussion, the board agreed that our medical room could be used on a trial basis 2 days/week. This arrangement will be helpful for board member Al Crommett who as a SHINE coordinator, has been traveling to Milford regularly to do this work.

Director's Comments:

Sharon indicated that the COA staff/volunteer holiday gathering would be held on the 20th at 11:30am. There will be a luncheon consisting of soup/salad/and sandwich would be served by the Age Center nutrition program this day. This is a trial attempt to increase participation in the program.

Sharon reported that the WRTA is having some difficulties with their unions regarding van drivers possibly usurping jobs from their members. Arbitration is proceeding to resolve issues.

MCOA updates include preparation of a web site, which may be available after the 1st of the year.

Sharon is moving along on her advanced degree work at Worcester State having finished an Ethics class encompassing her SHINE experiences.

Liaison Reports:

CMAA---Vicki reported that the ongoing nutrition site discussions have included John Belding at CMAA. Our contract with the Age Center in Worcester is scheduled for renewal on January 1st. We hope the issues concerning us can be settled somehow. A report on "Elder needs in Central Mass." is now available. The tax relief committee will be meeting on Jan. 16th including the assessors workshop (see report item last month).

Friends of the SCC, Inc.---a fund raising/holiday celebration will be held on Dec. 19th---all are invited.

SCP/Children---nothing to report

Elder Home Care Services of Worcester---Betty provided a brief report which indicates the extent of budgetary woes on the agency; i.e. only one nurse now available, increase in Adult Day Health Care for clients, and difficulty in grocery shopping services.

Old Business:

Technology Update---The Board and the Friends are still impacted negatively by software problems.

Nutrition issues-----Some discussion was held regarding our policy for dealing with snow conditions affecting delivery of Meals On Wheels (MOW). Traditionally when the school department cancels its bus service we do not deliver MOW. This should be made clear to the Age Center in our new contract beginning January 1, 2003. Bob Cox has planned to do the kitchen repair work necessitated by the heavy use of the facility by the nutrition program.

Emergency Cards---Cards will be updated to include an individual's date of birth, which should increase their effectiveness.

Budget---copies of the FY 04 budget request were made available to the Board.

New Business:

Policy and Procedures—A review committee was appointed to review documents prepared earlier and to add information regarding building closure, incident reports, etc.

Other:

Tim reported that Trinity Church was prepared to donate \$1000 to our “gift fund” to help fund the Health Fair.

Paul reported that the “gift fund” would receive \$300 from another donor.

Respectively submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary